

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 625
By Lewis

A RESOLUTION to honor Billy Rigsby for his years of service to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, Billy Rigsby has decided to leave the General Assembly and return to his beloved Hawkins Cove in Franklin County, his fellow members join together to grant him a leave of absence from his duties here, but refuse to accept his retirement from public service; and

WHEREAS, Billy Rigsby has served in the 97th, 98th, and 99th general assemblies and represents the counties of Franklin, Marion and Moore. He proudly occupies his desk on the house floor, located in the "amen" corner; and

WHEREAS, when asked to describe his friend Billy Rigsby, Judge Buddy Perry of the 12th Judicial District stated "hard working" are the words that come to the mind of anyone who knows Billy. Billy exemplifies the idea of hard work in his current and past endeavors. Billy and wife Patsy, along with their four children, own and operate Billy Rigsby Realty and Auction. Billy and son B.J. tend 100 head of cattle on the 175 acre family farm in Hawkins Cove. Hard work is the only way of life Billy has ever known. After graduating from Franklin County High School, Billy moved to Nashville where he worked full time during the day and attended the University of Nashville, full time during the evening; and

WHEREAS, Billy Rigsby is known for his determination and dedication. Once Billy applied for a job at a local cement company in Franklin County, and was denied employment. Ten years later Billy purchased the company himself; and

WHEREAS, at all times in his life, the most important aspect in Billy's life is his family. Billy and his wife Patsy will celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on Mar 14, 1996. They have four children: Brandi Lee, a senior at MTSU; Billy J., Jr. (B.J.), a freshman at Motlow College; Kristen Hope, a sophomore at Franklin County High School; and Jill Nicole, a student at Cowan School. Billy and Patsy proudly acknowledge that their children excel at both academics and athletics. Billy is the center of his family unit -- as a father, husband, son, brother, and uncle. His family responsibilities are always first with him, whatever the need is; and

WHEREAS, Billy has always been supported in his endeavors by family including his father Clifton B. Rigsby, Sr., now deceased, and his mother, Rosa Ella Rigsby, who today lives near Billy and Patsy on the family farm. Billy's parents had six children and provided them a happy home in Cowan, Tennessee. Billy played baseball and football in school, and shared these talents with his children coaching his son's little league team, bringing the team from last place to a championship while he coached; and

WHEREAS, Billy has always been a dedicated public servant and given of his time and talents to help others. Billy served as an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He was president of the Cowan Little League for four years. He served as foreman of the Franklin County Grand Jury for six years. He has also been active in several political campaigns through the years. This is in addition to being a full time father, farmer and businessman; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Shelby Rhinehart commends Billy Rigsby on his service as an officer to the Commerce Committee. Chairman Rhinehart stated, "Before you talk, you always look over your shoulder, because Rigsby is a very good listener"; and

WHEREAS, Representative Butch Lewis reflects that Billy Rigsby exemplifies the type of an individual that all his fellow members strive to emulate; and

WHEREAS, Majority Leader Bill Purcell states that Billy Rigsby is a model for legislative strength, honesty and principle, like none before him; and

WHEREAS, Majority Floor Leader Randy Rinks said, as a charter member of the “amen” corner, he has come to admire and respect Billy Rigsby as one of the most honorable people to ever serve in the general assembly. Representative Rinks stated he is proud to have served all six years with someone as capable as Billy Rigsby and that he will be truly missed; and

WHEREAS, Assistant Majority Leader Jere Hargrove reminisced by saying, “Billy is one of my very best friends in the legislature and, as everyone knows, he is the straightest of the straight arrows. Everyone knows his word is his bond. Beyond that, he is a charter member of the “white bean caucus” and a famed survivor of their infamous night on the town. In the words of the great philosopher Yogi Berra -- it’s just deja vu all over again!”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Jerry Cooper wants to “thank” Billy Rigsby for pulling him into the trenches in Rigsby’s quest to become the chairman of the board of TERDA. Senator Cooper said those who are close to Billy Rigsby know that his real boss is his sweet, loving wife “Alice”. Senator Cooper recalled that Billy Rigsby is the only person in the history of the state who lost his vehicle while it was up on the rack in the garage of the car dealership. Senator Cooper would like Billy Rigsby to remember his friends and to sell ten acre lots on Tims Ford Lake at a cost of \$1 per acre to legislators and their staff; and

WHEREAS, as President John F. Kennedy stated, “No government is better than the men who compose it”, the government of the State of Tennessee is better for Billy Rigsby having been a part of it; and

WHEREAS, we do not know what adventures await Billy Rigsby, we do know that wherever Billy Rigsby goes, he will make a better place; and

WHEREAS, in the words of our esteemed Speaker, thank you very kindly Billy Rigsby for your service to your state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That

we hereby express our thanks and appreciation to Representative Billy Rigsby for his innumerable services to Tennessee, and we honor him for his distinguished career with the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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